

What is claimed is:

1. A method for preserving a corneal explant *ex vivo*,
comprising incubating said explant in a solution comprising
5 an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to intercellular
adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1).

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said antisense
oligonucleotide is ISIS 2302.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said explant is
human.

15 4. A method of inhibiting corneal allograft rejection,
comprising contacting the allograft with a topical
formulation comprising an antisense oligonucleotide targeted
to intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1).

20 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said antisense
oligonucleotide is ISIS 2302.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein said allograft is
human.

25 7. The method of claim 4, wherein said topical
formulation is a solution.

30 8. A method for preserving a corneal explant *ex vivo*,
comprising incubating said explant in a solution comprising
an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to extracellular
adhesion molecule-1 (ELAM-1) or vascular cell adhesion
molecule-1 (VCAM-1).

9. The method of claim 7, wherein said explant is human.

10. A method for inhibiting corneal allograft rejection, comprising contacting the allograft with a topical formulation comprising an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to vascular cell adhesion molecule-1 (VCAM-1) or extracellular adhesion molecule-1 (ELAM-1).

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said allograft is human.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said topical formulation is a solution.

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